

Area Letter H Form numbers in this Area F/H 418-420  
Within Area F E-905

wn ACTON

me of Area (if any) Faulkner Mills

← Erikson Grain Mill (113 Main St.)

esent Use commercial

neral Date or Period mid 19th c. to  
mid 20th c.

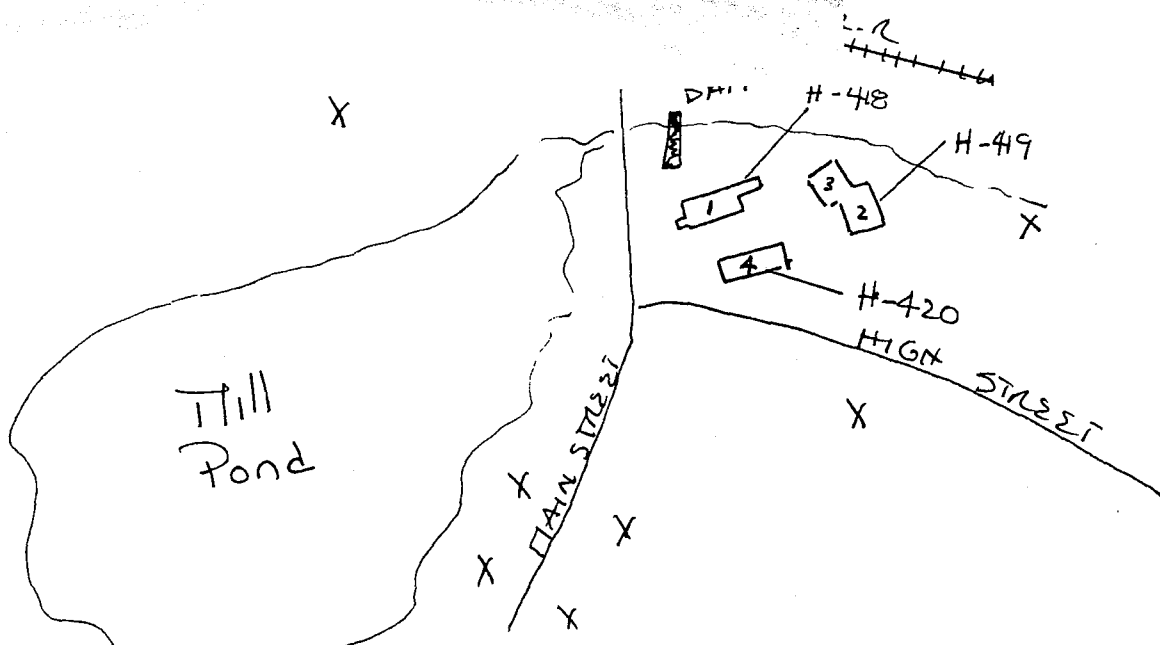
neral Condition fair/good

reage 1.49 acres

orded by Gretchen G. Schuler

ganization Acton Historical Commission

te June 1990



UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The property is eligible for National Register nomination as part of the School-River-Main Mill and Commercial Historic District for Criteria:

A - its association with the development of the railroad community from the 1840s with thriving mills and retail businesses on School, River and Main, as well as the owners and workers housing.

C - its representation of the Greek Revival and Italianate architecture most popular in developing the community of South Acton.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

South Acton, once part of the 1000-acre farm granted to Concord's Major Simon Willard, was sold to Ephraim and Samuel Jones and Jonathan Knight in 1701. The first fulling mill was established and throughout the 18th and 19th century there were active mill privileges on Fort pond Brook at Mill Corner where Main Street (once known as Maynard Road) and High, Maple, and School Streets intersect. South Acton was the first village center, preceding Acton Centre, which became the institutional center. With the advent of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 came the major growth of South Acton as an industrial village.

Mill Corner, later known as Exchange Square was the heart of the 18th century mill and commercial village and of the 19th century industrial railroad village. The intersection of the main north-south transportation route and School Street which was the most direct route to Concord from the early 1700s also had the railroad with depot, several mid 19th century commercial structures, and Stow Street which ended at Railroad Street before the overpass railroad bridge was built in 1906.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas/Birdseye/Map: 1856, 1870, 1875, 1886, 1889, 1892.  
Acton Historical Society, Jenks Library Files.  
Nylander and Forbes, "Mill Corner", 1989.  
Nylander, Robert, research notes, 1980s.  
Phalen, History of Town of Acton, 1954.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:  ACTON	Form No: H F/H 418-420 F-905
Property Name: 113 Main Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 113 MAIN STREET

The collection of buildings of which the Erikson Grain Mill is comprised includes remnants of mid 19th century buildings as well as mid 20th century additions. The buildings are arranged in a U-shape forming a rough courtyard with the stream and dam north of the complex and High Street south of the buildings.

Building 1 : On the northern edge is a clapboard gable roof building on a stone foundation with a large flat roof concrete block addition. The south facade of the clapboard part has a pedimented central dormer piercing the roof line in which there is a hay or loading door with hook. On each end of the main or south facade are large garage door openings with an overhead door on the left side and a large multi-light window on the right. In the peak of the gable end there is one 6/6 window. The concrete block 1950s addition has three large windows that are only partially visible due to permanently parked tractor trailers. In the west end, which is marked by the false front (facing Main Street), there is a garage door.

Buildings 2 and 3: The eastern edge of the arrangement of buildings includes two buildings that are connected by a modern roof canopy. The oldest section of Building 3 (part of the 1877 grain elevator) has a north-south gable roof orientation and is made of brick on granite foundation. The roof and part of the side wall are new following the 1976 fire and the gable peak and extra height on the long side is covered with wood board and batten siding. The two exposed sides, south and east, are punctuated by three bays all of which are boarded up and all of which have granite sills and lintels. Projecting from this building to the west is a gable end section of stucco over concrete block added following the fire. Only a 1-bay section of the east gable end is exposed on the south side and has a brick wall surface and one boarded window with granite lintel and sill. The west gable end has a store entrance and storefront multi-light window. Projecting from the north side of the brick section of Building 3, towards the stream and dam, is a modern board and batten warehouse building on a poured concrete foundation. It has a loading dock and doors on the west side facing into the courtyard.

Building 4 : The building opposite Building 1 on the south side, is also a two part building with a mid 19th century clapboard gable roof structure on a granite foundation and a 1960s added gable roof clapboard section on cinder blocks. The older section has a loading dock of concrete block with large open door with 6/6 sash left of the door. The raised fieldstone foundation has two 3/3 windows over which there are 6/6 sash. In the peak of the gable end of the older section there is a 6/6 window. The south side of the newer clapboard section has one 6/6 window. The north side of this building faces into the courtyard displaying a 2-story, 5-bay facade with three second story 6/6 sash set in plain frames, a central first story sliding door with two 6/6 windows on the east side and one window and one loading door on the west side of the central entrance. The added section has a large garage door with large paired 6/6 window to the right or west side of the door. There is one 6/6 second story window.

The terrain behind Building 1 drops off dramatically to the stream below. The dam is parallel to Main Street at the west end of Building 1. The dam is in disrepair with many of the enormous granite blocks piled in the stream bed.

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# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:  ACTON	Form No:
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## HISTORICAL STATEMENT - 113 MAIN STREET

First established in 1702 the Faulkner Mills were begun by Ephraim and Samuel Jones and Jonathan Knight, early settlers of South Acton. The land and mill privilege had been purchased from the Concord Iron Works Company in 1701. The Iron Works Farm had its forge on the Assabet River (now West Concord) and used surrounding lands for wood to make charcoal for the furnaces. The new owners first built a mud dam at the falls and Ephraim Jones built the first fulling mill on the south side of the dam and subsequent mills were built on the north side of the dam. Each of the three founders had shares which passed to new ownership separately. By 1742 Ammi Ruhammah Faulkner owned Ephraim Jones and Jonathan Knight's mill shares. Samuel Jones' share, which was one-half the saw mill (located at the north end of the dam) passed to Jones' son Samuel (of Jones tavern) and to his son Aaron Jones and finally to Abel Jones before being purchased by Winthrop E. Faulkner in 1851.

The original fulling mill was used for the washing and fulling of textiles and continued as part of the mill operations until 1848 when the building was converted to a grinding mill for fertilizer. The foundation of the original fulling mill may have been reused for reconstruction of Building 1 (per Sketch Map) throughout its history. The concrete block addition to this building was added in the 1950s.

The saw mill was moved to its location north of the dam in 1728 and was rebuilt at the turn of the nineteenth century to be a 2-story gable roof structure, which was demolished in 1932. This saw mill, which passed through the Jones (Jones Tavern) family until full ownership by the Faulkners in the mid 1800s was run by direct descendants of Samuel Jones even after owned by the Faulkners, including Aaron Marshall Jones and later when owned by the Cushing Holding Company it was operated by Elnathan Jones, Jr.'s son-in-law, Charles M. Kimball from 1908 to 1924. The yard for the saw mill extended to School Street until the railroad was laid in 1844.

The grist mill was built at a right angle to the fulling mill ca. 1751. This small 1 1/2 story building was enlarged in the 1840s to a 3-story building with a cupola. After 1877 Charles Harrington (owner by marriage to Faulkner's daughter) added a grain elevator building on the south side of the grist mill. All of this was destroyed by fire in 1976 save the first floor of the brick grain elevator which remains today (Building 3 on Sketch Map). The grain business was leased from 1875 until being purchased by Henry Erikson in 1943. The storehouse for the grist mill was built in ca. 1850 (Building 4) and added to in the 1960s.

The dam was rebuilt several times throughout the eighteenth century and in 1848 the present granite block dam was built at the falls of Fort Pond Brook.

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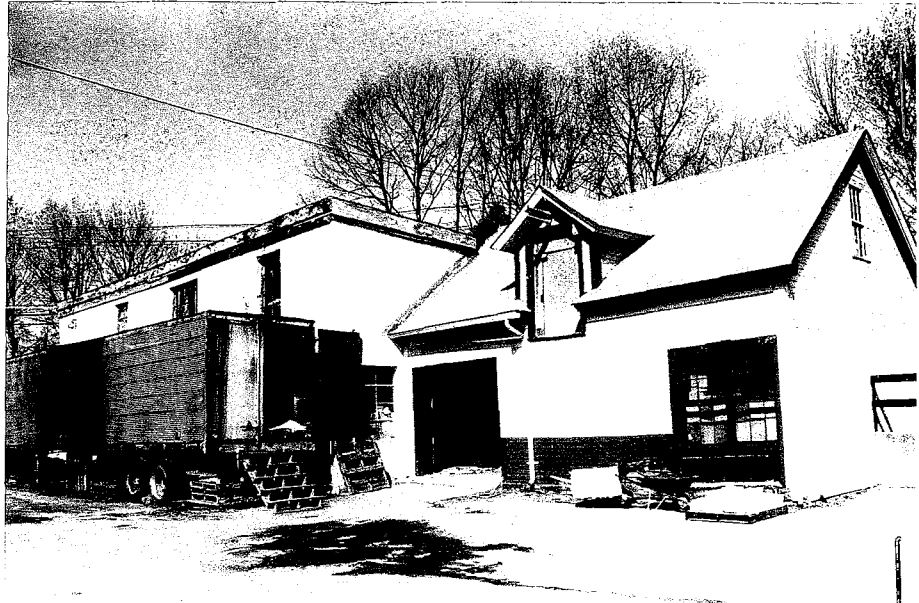
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Faellner  
Tills

Building #4  
northeast facade



Building #1  
south west  
facade



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